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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1910.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

TO INVESTIGATE ALL MEETINGS TABU IN MAKAWAO, MAUI; HOMESTEADING FAKES

Land Board Commences Inquiry
Into Reported Dummy
Applications.

WITNESSES TO BE CALLED

Cornwell Ranch Applies for a
New Lease and Finds
Others Ahead.

Fake homesteading will be the next important matter to be taken up by the advisory land board in connection with its inquiries into land conditions in the Territory, continually being made by body pursuant to the disposition of public lands.

Sabpens are now being prepared to call from the other islands at least 15 applicants for homesteads on Maui, and being the subject of another application made by the Cornwell Ranch Company. These men will testify at a special meeting of the board.

The application of the ranch company was presented before the board yesterday morning at ten o'clock, when it commenced its first full meeting in several months. It involves 10,264 acres of land which have been under lease to the company, that lease just expiring. Much of the land is valuable for homesteading, the ranch company asking for a twenty-one-year lease at \$2 a year.

Standing against the land, however, are numerous applications for homesteads which, under the new land laws, must have the first hearing. Those, however, have reached the board, and that all these applications are of persons who wish to become bona fide homesteaders, it being stated on several of the applicants desire land only for the sake of the firewood that can be taken from it.

R. H. Trent pointed out yesterday afternoon, in discussing the matter, that persons who wanted to have leased lands opened for homesteading often induced friends or acquaintances into signing the petition until the necessary fifty signatures were secured. In many cases those signing under these conditions do not realize that they are giving away their homesteading rights in the Territory forever and that in the future, when they do want land, they will be unable to get it.

Reports having come in to the board from other districts, it was finally decided to commence an inquiry into the whole procedure and to ascertain just the extent of the practice. The late land opening on the Big Island proved such a disappointment in the few applicants who finally appeared to take up the lands after placing their names in the drawing that a vigorous attempt will be made to see that all other applications in the future are those of none but would-be genuine homesteaders.

A question was raised at the meeting yesterday as to whether the board had the power to issue subpoenas, and Kinney maintained that they could not be used. The action was accordingly ordered. When the witnesses arrive they will be placed under oath before testifying and it is possible that another question of the board's powers will have come up.

ROOSEVELT FORGETS DEMOCRATIC VICTORY

NEW HAVEN, December 14.—Former President Theodore Roosevelt was the guest of honor here last evening at the annual banquet of the local chamber of commerce and was given a hearty welcome. As the principal speaker it was expected that he would make some statement in regard to the recent elections. He went along the lines of the regular election, went and paid no attention to the Democratic victory in any way.

BATTLESHIPS IN DANGER DURING FIERCE STORM

BREST, France, December 14.—A severe storm is sweeping the harbor here. American battleships, sailing here to help an American gunboat captain, Edgar Quinet, who had driven ashore, is fast on the rocks. Several coast guard boats have been sent out as a result of the tempest, racing the field of battle.

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PRATT CALLED IN HURRY TO DISTRICT

Radical action is being taken by the territorial board of health to stamp out the epidemic of diphtheria in the district of Makawao in the island of Maui, which yesterday issued an order prohibiting all public gatherings in the infected district. This means that, beside the closing of the schools, no church services will be held and all meetings by neighbors, even, is taboo.

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Clifford Charlton, who is already on the ground. The exact conditions can not be learned until Doctor Pratt returns.

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